

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-12 EB-11 AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/ IRN: JCMIKLOS

APPROVED BY: THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

NEA- MR. SISCO

NEA - MR. DAVIES

NEA/ PAB- MR. LAINGEN(DRAFT)

NEA/ INS- MR. KUX (DRAFT)

S/ S- MR. ELIOT

----- 000329

R 230203 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 053670

E. O. 11651: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EAID, IR, PK, IN, UR

SUBJ: DEPUTY SECRETARY MEETING WITH IRANIAN AMBASSADOR

1. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ARDESHIR ZAHEDI IN THE COURSE OF BECOMING ACQUAINTED WITH SENIOR USG OFFICIALS, CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH MARCH 20. HE EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WOULD BE VISITING TEHRAN NEXT MONTH AND SAID IRAN WAS HONORED THAT WE HAD SELECTED IT AS THE SITE FOR AN IMPORTANT CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE SHAH WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ON MONDAY, APRIL 23, ALTHOUGH THIS HAD NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED.

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2. ZAHEDI SAID THAT HE HAD CONVEYED TO THE SHAH THE IN-

FORMATION ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO HAD GIVEN HIM THE OTHER DAY REGARDING OUR PRESENT THINKING ON THE ARAB/ ISRAELI SITUATION AND OUR DECISION TO REVERT TO OUR 1967 POLICY WITH REGARD TO MILITARY SALES TO PAKISTAN. HE SAID THAT THE SHAH ASKED HIM TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS INFORMATION AND TO SAY THAT HE BELIEVED OUR DECISION WITH REGARD TO PAKISTAN WAS WISE . HE SAID THAT THE SHAH ALSO ASKED THAT WE KNOW THAT IRAN WAS GRATIFIED AT THE INTEREST THE UNITED STATES MAINTAINED IN THE AREA AND THE EFFORTS IT WAS EXERTING ON BEHALF OF REGIONAL PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING. HE SAID THAT SOME COUNTRIES UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT ALWAYS APPRECIATE OUR EFFORTS AND MENTIONED INDIA. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT INDIA HAD NO LEGITIMATE CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT SINCE WE WERE IN EFFECT WIPING THE SLATE CLEAN OF COMMITMENTS HELD IN SUSPENSE SINCE 1971 AND REINSTATING ONLY THE VERY LIMITED SALES POLICY FOLLOWED BETWEEN 1967-71. FURTHER HE SAID WE HAD ALSO DECIDED TO RELEASE SOME DOLS 87.6 MILLION OF AID WE HAD HELD IN SUSPENSE TO INDIA. ZAHEDI COMMENTED THAT INDIA SHOULD HAVE NO WORRIES ABOUT PAKISTAN PARTICULARLY SINCE IT HAD BEEN REDUCED IN SIZE AND INDIA WAS OBVIOUSLY FAR SUPERIOR MILITARILY TO PAKISTAN BY VIRTUE OF ARMS IT WAS ABLE TO MANUFACTURE ON ITS OWN AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE IT RECEIVED FROM THE USSR. HE THOUGHT OUR DECISION ON MILITARY SALES TO PAKISTAN GAVE IT A MUCH- NEEDED PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST.

3. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT WE WERE VERY PLEASED AT THE WAY RECENT OIL NEGOTIATIONS HAD GONE SINCE WE FELT IT VITAL THAT A VIABLE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP BE MAINTAINED WITH OIL- PRODUCING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY ONES AS FRIENDLY AS IRAN. ZAHEDI RESPONDED THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN SOME TENSIONS AT THE OUTSET THESE HAD BEEN OVERCOME AND THE SHAH WAS ESPECIALLY GRATIFIED SINCE, AS HE PUT IT, THE COMPANIES HAD LOOKED FOR ONCE TO THE FUTURE RATHER THAN THE PAST. HE SAID THE SHAH HAD ASKED THAT HE EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE HELPFUL ROLE THE UNITED STATES HAD PLAYED IN THIS MATTER. HE SAID THAT IT ONCE AND FOR ALL ELIMINATES THE POSSIBILITY OF IRAN ' S ENEMIES CHARGING THAT SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER THE SHAH AND IRAN ARE STOOGES OF WESTERN IMPERIALISTS.

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4. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY INQUIRED AS TO THE PRESENT NATURE OF IRANIAN/ CHINESE RELATIONS. ZAHEDI SAID THAT THEY WERE NORMAL AND IN SUBSTANCE CONFINED MOSTLY TO COMMERCIAL MATTERS. HE NOTED THAT THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO PEKING WAS A VERY ABLE AND EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT WHO WAS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB. HE SAID THAT WHILE IRAN ONCE BELIEVED THE CHINESE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUPRIMG GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN IRAN THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE. IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY' S QUESTION ABOUT FUTURE INDIAN/

CHINESE RELATIONS, ZAHEDI SAID THAT HE THOUGHT INDIA WOULD TRY TO DEAL PRAGMATICALLY WITH THE QUESTION AND RESTORE SOME BALANCE BETWEEN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND CHINA.

5. ZAHEDI, PROFESSING HOPE THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WOULD NOT MISUNDERSTAND, SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO BROACH A VERY DELICATE MATTER ABOUT WHICH EVEN IRAN' S FOREIGN MINISTER WAS NOT AWARE CONCERNING SOME DOUBTS HE BELIEVED THE SHAH MAY HAVE ABOUT OUR DEVELOPING DETENTE WITH THE USSR. HE SAID THAT THE SHAH WAS MOST GRATIFIED BY HIS TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT LAST MAY JUST AFTER THE LATTER' S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. WHILE HE WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE TIME HE ASSUMED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD GIVEN THE SHAH A FULL ACCOUNT OF HIS TALKS WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS. NEVERTHELESS, HE HAD THE IMPRESSION FROM SEVERAL COMMENTS THE SHAH HAD MADE RECENTLY THAT THERE MAY BE SOME QUESTION IN HIS MIND AS TO WHETHER UNDERSTANDINGS HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE USSR WHICH MAY BE OF DIRECT CONCERN TO IRAN. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT THIS WAS A VERY EASY QUESTION TO ADDRESS BECAUSE THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO AGREEMENT OR UNDERSTANDING REACHED WHICH IS OF DIRECT CONCERN TO IRAN. THE PRESIDENT' S EFFORTS IN MAY AND SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED ESSENTIALLY TO BILATERAL QUESTIONS AND TO SHIFTING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION FROM ONE OF CONFRONTATION TO ONE OF NEGOTIATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE TALKED TO THEM ABOUT SALT, ABOUT ENLARGED TRADE RELATIONS AND ABOUT COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT. AS AN EXAMPLE OF OUR CONCERN THAT WE NOT APPEAR TO BE DEALING BEHIND OUR FRIENDS' BACKS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT WE HAD BEEN SCRUPULOUSLY ATTENTIVELY TO KEEPING OUR NATO ALLIES INFORMED AT EVERY STAGE OF WHAT WAS TRANSPORTING IN OUR SALT TALKS. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING WE DID NOT AND WOULD NOT DISCUSS IRAN/ U. S. RELATIONS WITH THE USSR WITHOUT IRAN' S FULL KNOWLEDGE. ZAHEDI SAID THAT HE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED THESE COMMENTS AND RESPECTFULLY SUGGESTED THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MIGHT FIND THE OPPORTUNITY OF REVIEWING

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THIS SUBJECT WITH THE SHAH WHEN HE SEES HIM NEXT MONTH.
(SUBSEQUENTLY ZAHEDI ASKED COUNTRY DIRECTOR MIKLOS TO KEEP OUR DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT STRICTLY TO OURSELVES AND NOT TO MENTION THAT IT HAD BEEN RAISED TO OTHER GOI OFFICIALS.)

6. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH MUTUAL EXPRESSIONS OF DEEP SATISFACTION AND PLEASURE OVER THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES. ROGERS

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